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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

MAGNITOGORSK COMBINE RECORDS NEW GAINS;
PLEDGES INCREASE IN OUTPUT

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

In 1950, the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine imeni Stalin produced 7.5 percent more pig iron, 26.5 percent more steel, and 30 percent more rolled steel than provided for in the Five-Year Plan. The combine pledged to fulfill the 1951 plan ahead of schedule and to produce 60,000 tons of pig iron, 50,000 tons of steel, 35,000 tons of rolled steel, 160,000 tons of iron ore, and 35,000 tons of coke above the plan; to reach a coefficient of blast-furnace utilization of 0.78, and to recover 7.45 tons of steel per square meter of open-hearth furnace; to introduce new techniques and convert two blast furnaces to an accelerated rate of operation; to utilize equipment more fully and reduce consumption of raw materials, fuel, electric power, and other materials.(1)

During the past 5 years, the Magnitogorsk Metallurgical Combine has solved many important problems, including the production of self-fluxing sinter and its use in open-hearth furnaces. By improving storage facilities, and coal-crushing methods, and the technology and operation of coke batteries, it was possible to achieve a higher and more constant quality of coke. Intraplant transport was converted to electric traction. Much has been done for the automatization of production processes.(2)

Operations in the blast-furnace shop of the Magnitogorsk Combine are largely automatic. In 1950, the number of workers in the shop was reduced by 80 people and the output of pig iron increased 8 percent over the 1949 output. Compared with 1949, the 1950 cost of one ton of pig iron was reduced 25 percent and the idle time of machinery was reduced 50 percent.

During 1950, blast-furnace workers of Magnitogorsk first began to operate with increased pressure of blast-furnace gas. Blast furnace No 6 had to be repaired and reconstructed in 1950, at which time it was adapted to operation under high gas pressure.(3)

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In April 1951, operators of blast furnace No 6 reached a coefficient of furnace utilization of 0.769, instead of 0.780 as pledged. Consumption of coke per ton of pig iron was 97 kilograms below the norm established for the blast-furnace shop. During a one-year period, over one million rubles were saved on furnace charge materials.

Operators of blast furnace No 4 achieved new successes in 1951; in April, consumption of coke per ton of pig iron was reduced 20 kilograms below the plan, and the coefficient of furnace utilization reached 0.735, thus establishing a new record.

Reconstruction of two blast furnaces will begin in the near future for the purpose of converting them to high-pressure blast-furnace gas. Several open-hearth furnaces will also be reconstructed and automatization of work processes will continue.

Compared with 1950, the average daily production of pig iron by the combine increased 10 percent. The average daily output of steel by the combine increased 8.2 percent over 1950, and steel production of open-hearth shop No 2 increased 13 percent.

Despite some improvements in the work of rolling shops, their operation as a whole does not meet the requirement of the combine. Rolling-shop workers are lagging behind the steel smelters. Ingots often pile up in the storage place and have to be shipped to other plants.

The supply of scrap metal to the combine is not satisfactory. Although scrap-metal deliveries increased in the spring of 1951, they are still insufficient to form an adequate reserve.(2)

SOURCES

1. Kiev, Pravda Ukrainy, 22 Apr 51
2. Moscow, Trud, 26 Apr 51
3. Moscow, Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 4 Apr 51

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